

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Saturday, October 3. to Tuesday, October 6. 1713.

*The Guardian Imposed upon in his Notions of the French Trade.**It is kinder to say so of him, than to say he is a Deceiver of others, and one of them must be true.**The Guardian has advanced the best Argument, why the Landed-Men should pass the Bill of Commerce that could be found out, and they ought to thank him for the Discovery.**The Customs of the French Trade able to clear the whole Nation of Debt, if what the Guardian says were true.**The Customs of the French Trade more by the Guardian's Account, than all the other Customs of Britain, Inward and Outward.*

HOW just has the *MERCATOR* been in this particular Reflection upon the Design of those, who have Opposed the Treaty of Commerce, (viz.) That they Imposed upon and Deluded the People.

And such has been the power of their Clamour, that it is apparent, even the *Guardian* himself has been Imposed upon by them.

The late Author of the *Guardian* will not take it ill, that the *MERCATOR* thinks him Imposed upon: The *MERCATOR* thinks it is the kindest thing, that can be said of him in this Case, and is spoken to avoid charging him with a Design of Imposing upon others, which is much worse.

What the *Guardian* has published on the Subject of Trade, it is most evident must be a MISTAKE; either the *Guardian* knew it to be so, or he did not; if he knew it to be a Mistake, he must be a Deceiver, and publish it to Abuse and Impose upon the People by his own Authority, which the *MERCATOR* is very loath to suggest of him, and therefore in Charity supposes, he did not know it to be false, and then he has been Imposed upon by others; which, as above, is the softest turn, that can be given it in his behalf.

But as when any Man has affirm'd, that another IS MISTAKEN, he cannot make such a Charge too evident: The *MERCATOR* taking the Three Heads of Trade already mentioned complexly and together, offers some other Considerations to demonstrate the Absurdity of them.

1. The *Guardian* is to consider, what a strange and monstrous thing he has represented the French Trade to be, and that it shall Import more Goods, than ever it was possible the Nation could Consume, or indeed than France could Produce for Exportation in those Parts, whence we know they were brought; their other Exportations of the like kind being also considered.

2. The *Guardian's* Account being supposed to be true, the Customs of Great-Britain must be as monstrous as the Trade.

And here we cannot but take Notice, how infinitely obliged the Nation will be for time to come to the *Guardian*; and as he is now to Sit in Parliament, no

doubt he is preparing to shew himself exceeding serviceable to the Landed-Interest in particular, upon the foot of which, he comes in as a qualified Member, in that he has discovered a Fund, that will support the Publick Affairs for the future, without loading the Lands, and without any more grievous Malt-Taxes; nay, and will enable Her Majesty, without any new Act of Parliament, to lessen the Publick Debts, and pay off all the Redeemable Funds in a shorter time, than could be otherwise expected, to the very great Ease of the Nation.

Since then the *Guardian* has found out such a Mine of inexhaustible Treasure in the French Trade, and which the Landed-Interest stands so much in need of at this time, he has furnished thereby matter of great Thanks to be returned to him by all the Landed-Men of Britain for so eminent a Discovery, and has given the Representative of Britain the best and strongest Reasons, why they should be for the French Trade, and why they should make the Articles Effectual that can possibly be framed: The *MERCATOR* shall deduce it from nothing but his own Paper, No. 170. the Particulars of which have been spoken to at large already. As to the Goods, which he says shall be Imported, the *Guardian* has stated the Imports from France to be as follows:

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| 18000 | Ton of Wine. |
| 4000 | Ton of Brandy, or thereabouts, the Quantity being left uncertain, tho' not the Value. |
| | Linen to the Value of 700,000 l. a Year. |
| | Wrought Silk 500,000 l. a Year. |
| | Paper 50,000 l. a Year. |

To make good what is said above, the *MERCATOR* alledges, that upon this foot of Importation, if the *Guardian* can make it good, the Customs to be raised for the future upon the French Trade only, will amount to as much as all the rest of the Duties payable upon the whole British Trade, both to and from all the World.

This, the *MERCATOR* says, will be a most useful addition to the Publick Revenue, and must be consequently a very great Argument, why some Gentlemen should be for settling the Treaty of Commerce,



force, and making the Articles Effectual, as will appear upon the following short state of the Duties on several Articles, by which the rest may be guessed; and therefore these may be thought sufficient to lead the *Guardian* into a just Calculation of the great Merit of his new Proposal.

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| 18000 Ton of French Wine, at 27l. per Ton Duty, pays | } 1. 486,000 |
| 4000 Ton of Brandy, at 51l. Duty | |
| Take the Duty on 700,000 Value in Linen at 15 per Cent. which is less than some of it will come to upon the new Settlement | } 105,000 |

The Duty on his Silk Manufactures, as he Rates the Import of them, must stand as follows:

The Value of the Wrought Silk, which shall be Imported, as the *Guardian* says, is to be 500,000 l. tho' by his own Rule first laid down, (viz.) that it should lay aside half our *Spittlefields* Looms, who work Two Millions, it ought to be esteem'd a Million: but 500,000 l. is extravagant enough.

Of the Importation of French Wrought Silks, when the Trade was open, it is well known, that one half of those Silks at least were Alamodes and Lustrings. Now the old SCHEME having from the Book of Rates valued the Wrought Silks at 40 s. per l. one with another, this must be 250,000 l. weight of Silks Imported; and the Alamodes and Lustrings being half of this Quantity, must be then 125,000 l. weight.

These must now pay 11. 14 s. per l. weight Custom, which amounts to 212,500 l.
The remaining half must pay 12 s. per l.
or in a particular Circumstance 10 s. 6 d. 65,625 l.

These Sums are to be collected from the first four Articles of the French Trade, as it is stated for Futurity by the *Guardian* in his aforesaid Paper: And as he takes upon him to say it is probable to be, and as he says it is to be feared it will be,

Over and above these things, he may, when he pleases, add all the Particulars of the other Imports from France, which the other UNDER-SCHEME-MAKERS, for they are not yet gone his length, have enumerated, and for which they have singled out a Year after five Years Interruption of Commerce.

The Duties of these Goods, which they make to amount to extravagant Sums, may be supposed to come to something; and without entering into Particulars will suppose them to come to 100,000 l. more: Certainly it is as likely they should make 100,000 l. as that these other Heads should raise the Sums abovementioned.

Let us now cast up this Account together, and see how Her Majesty's Revenue will stand, when the *Guardian* shall make good the Probability of what he says is probable: The Account will then stand thus:

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| Wine | 486,000 |
| Brandy | 204,000 |
| Linen | 105,000 |
| Alamodes and Lustrings | 212,500 |
| Other Wrought Silks | 65,625 |
| All other Goods from France | 100,000 |
| Total of the Customs of the French Trade for one Year only | } 1,173,125 |



If the *Guardian* is not to be praised then for the best Projector of the Age, who has found out such a Fund, as has not been heard of before; let any one judge.

The whole Customs of this Nation, including Scotland, as well for Importations as Exportations, at the last Audit (viz.) for the Year 1711, including the Duty upon Coals, which is really no part of the Customs upon Foreign Trade, amounted to 1,253,598 l. 14 s. 10 d. $\frac{1}{4}$: And this happy Author has found us out a Fund for raising a Sum equal to it out of the French Trade, only, so that there is a new Fund for Discharging the Nations Debts, and easing our Land-Tax, Malt-Tax, and such like heavy Parts of our Taxes, without any Trouble.

It is really a very noble and advantageous Project, and it surprizes us not a little, to see the Customs of this single Trade stand as a Match to all the rest of our Trade in the World, and over-balance them too. Behold the formidable Account they make!

Customs of the Importations from France, as per the *Guardian*, No. 170. being for the first Year after the Commerce shall begin, } 1,173,125

Produce of the whole Customs of Britain for the Year 1711, exclusive of the Coal-Tax, } 1,133,380 17 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Duties on French Goods more than all the Customs of Britain both inward and outward, } 39,744 2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Either then this Article of the Customs must be certain to come in upon the settling the French Trade according to the Treaty of Commerce, or what the *Guardian* says cannot be reasonable to suggest.

If it be not reasonable to suggest, let the *Guardian* answer for that, and say, why did he suggest it; if it be reasonable, let the state of the Customs be considered.

The Truth of the Matter will be acknowledg'd, (viz.) That the very Suggestion is absurd and ridiculous; and that as no such Quantities of Goods ever were Imported, so had it been so, it is evident now, that less will be hereafter Imported than ever was Imported before, because the Duties of every thing are now to be much higher than before, and the Encrease of the Duties must of course lessen the Importation, because Dearness of every thing lessens the Consumption.

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THE Poll of the Livery-Men of the City of London, at the Election for Members of Parliament: Begun Monday, October the 9th, 1710. and ended the Saturday following. Shewing who each Person Poll'd for. The Names of those that did not Poll. And the Objections made at the Scrutiny. Compar'd with the Clerks Lists of the several Companies deliver'd on Oath to the Right Honourable Sir Samuel Garrard, Bart. Lord-Mayor. The Whole being a Compleat List of the Livery. Printed for John Morphew, near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s.